

**Ceantar Bardasach Carraig Mhachaire Rois – Baile Na Lorgan
Comhairle Contae Mhuineacháin**



**The Municipal District of Carrickmacross – Castleblayney
Monaghan County Council**

Minutes of proceedings of May 2017 monthly meeting of The Municipal District of Carrickmacross – Castleblayney held in the Civic Offices, Riverside Road, Carrickmacross, Co. Monaghan on Monday 22nd May 2017 at 4.00pm

Present: - Cathaoirleach Campbell

Cllrs. Jackie Crowe, Noel Keelan, Colm Carthy, Pdraig McNally, P J O'Hanlon.

In attendance: - Paul Clifford, Director of Services; Gareth Mc Mahon , Co-ordinator; John Fox, Assistant Engineer, Amanda Murray, Staff Officer, Caitriona Lazdauskas, Clerical Officer, Nial O'Connor, Environmental Awareness Officer, Cathal Flynn, Senior Engineer Environment Section, Cianna McNally, Northern Standard.

1. Confirmation of Minutes

On the proposal of Cllr. Carthy and seconded by Cllr. Keelan the minutes of the monthly meeting held on the 24th April 2017 were adopted.

2. Matters arising

Replies to queries:

- Cllr. McNally enquired if the data taken from the traffic counter placed at Magherboy was analysed. Gareth McMahan, Co-ordinator, confirmed that the data was analysed and traffic is compliant with the speed limit, therefore, calming measures are not warranted.
- Cllr. McNally requested if the proposed plans arising from the meeting between Monaghan County Council and Louth County Council in relation to the link roads to the M1 could be made available. Gareth McMahan, Co-ordinator confirmed he will request a copy of the proposed plans. He also stated that Louth County Council propose to construct a link road to the M1 at one single location.
- Cllr. Crowe enquired on the land ownership details in relation to the drainage pipes at the graveyard and chapel in Oram. Co-ordinator Gareth McMahan confirmed that John Lennon, District Engineer, is currently in the process of completing this request.

- Cllr. Crowe enquired when the overlay works on the section of the N53 from Ballincarry Bridge will commence and also if a high friction surface will be put in place at the Bridge. Co-ordinator Gareth McMahon stated that the tender process is near completion and the contractor will commence works in June. He also stated that if a high friction surface is warranted at the Bridge, it will be put in place.
- Cllr. Keelan requested a report be circulated at the next monthly meeting in relation to the state of the roads in Carrickmacross town centre and surrounding area and the cost to bring the roads up to standard. Co-ordinator Gareth McMahon confirmed that the engineering staff are currently working on a condition survey which will be circulated at the next meeting.
- Cllr. McNally enquired on the status of the grant and the remedial plan for the dangerous wall at Convent Hill, Carrickmacross. Co-ordinator Gareth McMahon stated that the consultants have been given the go ahead to procure the work.
- Cllr. Carthy enquired if the Housing Association was contacted regarding the finishing of works in the unfinished estate on the Ardee Road. Director of Services Paul Clifford stated that the contracts have not been completed.

3. Correspondence

- **Letter from Mark Byrne, TII** regarding the placement of average speed cameras on the N2 between Aclint and Castleblayney.
Cllr. Keelan voiced his disappointment at the response received in the letter.
- **Correspondence from Niamh Smyth TD** with the replies she received to her Parliamentary Questions in relation to the closure of the Ulster Bank branch in Carrickmacross. All members voiced their concern and dismay at the closure of the bank. All members thanked Co-ordinator Gareth McMahon on his effort in arranging a meeting with Ulster Bank management which is currently ongoing.
- **Letter from Primary Care Services, HSE** regarding GP Services, Cloughvalley, Carrickmacross. Cllr. Carthy requested that regular updates on the situation be sought from Mr. Billy Standish, General Manager, Primary Care Services and Mr. Cathal Hand, Monaghan Primary Care Network Manager.
- **Letter from the office of Minister Simon Coveney** acknowledging receipt of letter regarding the use of mobile cameras to catch fly tippers

4. Delegation from Environment Section to discuss littering issues

- Nial O'Connor, Environmental Awareness Officer gave a presentation to the members on the litter enforcement and awareness campaigns being undertaken by the Environment Section to combat littering and illegal dumping in County Monaghan. Nial O'Connor stated that approximately 500 complaints were made to the Environment Section in 2016 with approximately 350 of these relating to litter. Nial O'Connor also stated that the Connacht Ulster Waste Enforcement Regional Lead Authority (CUWERLA) has allocated €22,750 to the Environment Section in 2017. Part of this funding will be used to install CCTV to combat littering black spots in Housing Estates.
- Cllr. O'Hanlon stated that an investment in hidden cameras and also publicising those that are caught is required.

- Cllr. Campbell stated that an increase in funding is required to install more cameras to combat the littering issue.
- Cllr. Carthy thanked the Environment Section for the work carried out and asked whether the mobile cameras that are available are covert or overt. Nial O'Connor, Environmental Awareness Officer, stated that there is currently only one mobile camera in operation in County Monaghan due to technical issues and it is proposed to use the private sector to provide more cameras.
- Cllr. Carthy also stated that there is a major issue with dog fouling. Nial O'Connor, Environmental Awareness Officer, stated that the Litter Enforcement Officer and the Dog Warden currently undertake joint inspections in the Cloughvalley area of Carrickmacross to combat this issue.
- Cllr. O'Hanlon stated that one camera in the Municipal District to combat littering is not enough of a deterrent.
- Cllr. Crowe voiced his dismay at the dog fouling issue in Lough Muckno Park and stated that covert cameras are required. Nial O'Connor, Environmental Awareness Officer, stated that a project for the Muckno area has been suggested to combat the issue of dog fouling as part of Castleblayney Tidy Towns three year plan.
- Cllr. Keelan acknowledged the work of the Environment Section and the residents groups for their excellent work. Cllr. Keelan voiced his concern at the amount of litter that can be viewed when road verges are trimmed back.
- Cllr. McNally agreed that more covert cameras are required to combat littering and that dog fouling is also a huge problem. Cllr. McNally stated that warning signs should be erected in every town and village in County Monaghan. Nial O'Connor, Environmental Awareness Officer stated that signage co-funded by the Environment Section was put in place in Ballybay-Clones Municipal District.
- Cllr. Campbell stated that dog owners need to take personal responsibility in relation to dog fouling.

5. **Set Date for AGM**

- It was agreed by all members that the Annual General Meeting will take place on Monday the 26th June 2017 at 10am in the Civic Offices, Riverside Road, Carrickmacross.

6. **Consideration of Coordinators monthly report**

Issues Raised Discussed

- Cllr. Carthy requested that all machinery and barriers put in place during the ducting works in Carrickmacross be removed before the June Bank Holiday Festival weekend.
- Cllr. Carthy asked if the Municipal District has investigated the outdoor recreation grant for Farney Angling.
- Cllr. Carthy requested that a funding application be made in 2018 for wheelchair friendly play equipment at Cloughvalley Play Park.
- Cllr. Carthy requested that a draft proposal be circulated to the members in relation to the Walking and Cycling Strategy.
- Cllr. Crowe voiced his dismay at progress made by the ESB in connecting public lighting in the Municipal District area.
- Cllr. Crowe asked that this Municipal District investigate funding options available to assist with the commission of the Big Tom statue proposed for Castleblayney.

- Cllr. Keelan acknowledged the work taking place on the footbridge in Inniskeen, the Market Square in Carrickmacross and the safety works at the schools. Cllr. Keelan asked if funding can be made available to schools that have requests for further safety measures.
- Cllr. O’Hanlon stated that there is an issue with regard to the commencement of the road improvement scheme in this Municipal District and asked that this district be considered first for works in 2017.
- Cllr. McNally enquired on the scale of the ducting work set to commence this week, the 22nd May, in Carrickmacross and if it is going to affect a large part of the town.
- Co-ordinator Gareth McMahan stated that public lighting design is now with Vincent McKenna as he will review the design prior to installation.
- Cllr. McNally enquired about the withdrawal of the lowest tenderer for the works at Linear Park, Carrickmacross. Co-ordinator Gareth McMahan confirmed that the tenderer has the right to withdraw his tender. The next lowest tenderer has been approached and a letter of intent has been issued to him.
- Cllr. McNally enquired on the Carrickmacross Walking and Cycling Strategy Public Consultation findings. Co-ordinator Gareth McMahan stated that cycle lanes were requested during the consultation period and technical information will be added to the draft public consultation report for the next meeting.
- It was agreed by all members to defer the approval for the design of the junction on the Castleblayney Road to next month’s meeting.
- Cllr. McNally stated that there is a need for a pedestrian crossing between the Cloughvalley junction and Cloughvalley Stores on the Castleblayney Road in Carrickmacross.

7. Questions

Questions raised by Cllr. Padraig Mc Nally for May 2017 meeting of Carrickmacross/ Castleblayney Municipal District Council:

1. Has this MD contacted Louth County Council regarding a possible extension of 1/2 public lights located in Co. Monaghan but connected to existing network located in County Louth at Killanny Church.

Response:

The Municipal District has arranged a site meeting with Louth County Council on the 25/05/17 to discuss the possibility of two additional public lights being connected to the Louth County Council network.

2. What is the up-to-date position regarding the traffic calming measures at old Castleblayney road and adjacent to Inver College and Patrician High School.

Response:

The Municipal District is currently finalising their low cost safety improvements for the Castleblayney/Ballybay junction which we will be presenting to the elected members for consideration. Public consultation will commence in the coming weeks and works are planned for late June or early July 2017, ensuring no disruption to students sitting state examinations.

3. Has this MD received any response from Louth County Council regarding a meeting to discuss what their plans are to link the R178 to the M1.

Response:

The roads section of Monaghan County Council met with representatives from the roads section of Louth County Council at the end of March. Louth County Council outlined plans that they have for the Dundalk Western Infrastructure route which will bring traffic north and south around the

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town of Dundalk subject to funding being available. They indicated that no funding is available at present for the construction of the route. Following discussion they agreed to examine traffic movements to and from Greenore Port to the R178 Carrickmacross Road.

Questions raised by Cllr. Colm Carthy for May 2017 meeting of Carrickmacross/Castleblayney Municipal District Council:

4. Has this MD added provisions for ramps to be added to the Foxfield housing estate, Carrickmacross in the near future?

Response:

The Municipal District has completed a 10 day traffic count in Foxfield estate and the information collected indicates above normal levels of speeding violations. The Municipal District is currently reviewing traffic calming solutions for Foxfield. Speed ramps are also being considered.

5. Can this Municipal District confirm when is the expected completion date for the remainder of the Lough na Glack housing estate, Carrickmacross?

Response:

It is anticipated that Lough NaGlack estate will be completed in its entirety by February 2018.

6. When are the results of the public consultation for the Cycle/Walk way in Carrickmacross expected to be gathered?

Response:

The consultation period has ended and the results are being reviewed.

7. Can this MD confirm if costs have been determined on works required in Drummond Etra, Carrickmacross, (green area between upper and lower estates) i.e Trees to be trimmed/cut, rear-access laneways needing resurface etc?

Response:

The Municipal District will prepare a costing for Drummond Etra for June's meeting.

Questions raised by Cllr. Noel Keelan for May 2017 meeting of Carrickmacross-Castleblayney Municipal District Council:

8. In relation to Lisdoonan and ensuring the maximum amount of Clár funding is spent in the village, will this council put in place an extra 1-2 speed ramps between the church and Lios Housing Development; will this council put in place extra public lighting adjacent to the school car park on the new line and at Lios Housing Development and also from the village out to the old Hibernian Hall given there is already a footpath link at this location; will the council also upgrade and repaint the road markings in the village.

Response:

Three speed ramps along with two public lights have been installed on the approach roads to the National School in Lisdoonan Village. A contractor has been procured to upgrade the road markings at the school and works will commence shortly. The District Office proposes to install one additional speed ramp and to upgrade the public lighting heads to LED's.

9. In relation school safety and welcoming the ongoing works, will the council consider putting in place a safety railing from Corduff National School to the Community Centre similar to the excellent work carried out at Drumgossatt National School; what is the up-to-date plans for enhanced safety measures at Blackstaff National School; what is the up-to-date plans for extra

safety measures at Ballaghnamearn National School; will the council consider putting in place a number of speed ramps at this location, in consultation with school management and local residents as discussed on site with our engineering staff some time ago.

Response:

Corduff National School:

The Municipal District Office erected a new pedestrian safety rail on the 9/05/17 at the request of the principle of Corduff National School.

Blackstaff National School:

Two new digital speed safety signs will be installed on the approach roads along with upgrading of existing road markings. To accommodate the upgrading of the road markings, a new wearing course will first be laid.

Ballaghnamearn National School:

Three new digital speed safety signs will be installed on the approach roads along with upgrading of existing road markings.

10. In relation to Inniskeen village, what is the up-to-date position regarding the provision of footpaths/walking routes linking up all the areas throughout the village, including the provision of a footbridge across the River Fane; when will the roadways in the village be resurfaced including an area in Dunard estate; what is the up-to-date position in relation to the provision of extra speed ramps adjacent to St Daigh's Tce and the Kavanagh Centre as agreed some time ago.

Response:

The Municipal District has begun to review the possibility of a new footpath linking the village to the Monaghan Way. The review includes a new footbridge over the River Fane. Resurfacing of Inniskeen Village will commence in July/August 2017. A safety assessment will be carried out at St Daigh's Tce and at the Kavanagh Centre to establish if there is need for the additional speed ramps.

11. In relation to the landmark wall at the dangerous bend at Lisgall on the old N2 will the council get a costing for the repair and repainting of this wall and also look at the possibility of putting in place a crash barrier at this location.

Response:

The District Office will not be repairing/repainting the wall in the townland of Lisgall in 2017. A review of this section of road will be carried out by the engineering staff in the coming weeks to determine the need for a crash barrier at this location.

12. In relation to the public lighting programme what is the up-to-date position regarding completing the lighting from Inniskeen village to the GAA ground at Kednaminsha and the missing light at Magee's Corner in the village; what is the up-to-date position in relation to the provision of public lighting at Lisanisk and Blackstaff.

Response:

A public lighting programme is currently being prepared by the Municipal District for 2017 and will be presented to the elected members shortly. Consideration will be given to Cllr Keelan's proposals, subject to funding and approval from the elected members.

Questions raised by Cllr. Jackie Crowe for May 2017 meeting of Carrickmacross-Castleblaney Municipal District Council:

13. That this Municipal District Council would seek resources to engage a planning consultant to prepare a local area Action Plan for Muckno Street, Market Square Castleblayney and general area?

Response:

This matter will be dealt with under the Development Plan Consultation process.

14. In regards to a question I submitted in October 2016 asking for Improved Road Safety Signage and Traffic Calming at Our Ladies Secondary and Primary Schools on the Shercock Road Castleblayney; what recommendations have been made from the safety audit that was to be carried out for this very dangerous road?

Response:

The Municipal District appointed McMahon & Associates to undertake a road safety audit, which they have completed. The safety audit makes 7 recommendations, ranging from additional advanced warning signage to a designated drop off facility. A preliminary design incorporating the audit's recommendations is being prepared by the District Office for public consultation. Following the public consultation a low cost safety improvement funding application will be submitted to the Department of Transport, Tourism, and Sport in 2017.

15. In regards to a request I received from Drumillard Community Group about the Childrens Play Park in the area; would this MD look into the following concerns that were made:

- Lights are needed on the pathway between Oliver Plunkett Park and Beech Drive and at the playground.
- Fencing is needed around the playground, plus gate to secure area.
- Remedial work to swings that will make them secure for small children.
- Special needs children use this park and there needs to be equipment put in place to cater for them.
- More items are needed for toddlers and babies.

Response:

Unfortunately Castleblayney Town is not in the Clar area and was therefore ineligible for recent Clar funding. Consideration will be given to Cllr Crowe's request, but subject to funding and approval from the elected members.

16. What responsibility does the MD have in regards to trees along main streets and thoroughfares in our towns where the roots of such trees have burst piping in homes?

Response:

Cllr Crowe's question has been forwarded to the IPB, Monaghan County Council insurance company for a response.

17. In regards to safety for children will the MD consider erecting three more "Children at Play" signs, at the entrances to Oliver Plunkett Park, Park Road and Black Island View?

Response:

Yes, the Municipal District will erect three new "Children at Play" signs as requested.

Questions raised by Cllr. Aidan Campbell for May 2017 meeting of Carrickmacross-Castleblaney Municipal District Council:

18. Leaving Annafarcán school heading towards Lackafin for Castleblayney on the L8111 there is a very dangerous slump in the road which is causing damage to cars when will this be made good?

Response:

The Municipal District Office has procured a contractor to repair this section road. It will be repaired in the coming weeks.

19. On the LT76111 in the town land of Tullynamalra the road had sunken away and there is a dangerous dip in the road causing a danger to traffic, when will this be made good?

Response:

The Municipal District Office has procured a contractor to repair this section of road. It will be repaired in the coming weeks.

8. Notice of Motions

- Motion put forward by Cllr. Pádraig McNally and seconded by Cllr. O'Hanlon;

"In light of the IPB refund to Monaghan County Council, that Carrickmacross - Castleblayney uses the additional funding to install footpaths and public lighting, in particular, the Drumcondrath road, Carrickmacross which we have already prioritised"

A motion in relation to this matter was withdrawn by Cllr. Carthy on the basis of Cllr. McNally's motion.

In relation to the footpath programme, co-ordinator Gareth McMahon stated that he will request the Municipal District Engineers to develop a detailed design and costings for the next meeting.

9. Directors Orders

The Directors orders 34/2017 to 53/2017 attached to the agenda were noted.

10. Votes of Sympathy / Congratulations

Votes of Sympathy were passed with the following:

- Gareth McMahon, Carrickmacross-Castleblayney Municipal District Co-ordinator on the death of his father Peter McMahon.
- Reverend David Cole on the death of his wife Chris Cole
- Pádraig McEneaney on the death of his uncle Pete McEneaney
- Peter Moran on the death of his mother Dr. Aileen Moran
- Eamon Woods on the death of his mother Kathleen Woods

11. Any Other Business

- Cllr. Keelan stated that the terms of reference in relation to the North-South Interconnector are too weak. Cllr. Keelan proposed, seconded by Cllr. Crowe;

"that this Council rejects the terms of reference recently announced by Minister Denis Naughton and Government in relation to the North-South Interconnector Study, given that the terms of

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reference is clearly not in keeping with the recent Dáil Motion proposed by Fianna Fáil and supported by Sinn Féin and others. We write to Minister Naughton, Local Minister Heather Humphreys and all Government TD's and Senators and all other Oireachtas members representing the Cavan, Monaghan and Meath areas affected by this project, demanding that the terms of reference be redrafted to reflect the wishes of the people in the area, MAPC and NEPP Group as per Dáil Motion. We also demand that no further works are carried out on this project until a comprehensive analysis is undertaken".

Cllr. Keelan requested that the proposal be forwarded to all the Local Authorities and Municipal District Offices in Cavan, Monaghan and Meath.

- Cllr. Carthy voiced his concern on the issue of children being left on their own at the staff less library in County Offaly. Cllr. Carthy enquired if Carrickmacross will become a staff less library in the future. Co-ordinator Gareth McMahon stated that this query will be forwarded to Monaghan County Council's Senior Executive Librarian for a response.
- Cllr Carthy requested that the problem with overgrown Hedges on the R179 must be addressed. Co-ordinator Gareth McMahon stated that he will examine the hedge cutting notices issued.

Meeting concluded at 5.45pm. This was followed by an awards ceremony to Community Groups and also a civic reception to recognise the 50th anniversary of the Community Games in Ireland.

Cathaoirleach

Meetings Administrator

Date: 22nd May 2017